wherein

one of Z^1 and Z^2 is H and the other is [in each case, independently, are each]

$-(CH_2)_m-(C_6H_4)_q-(O)_k-(CH_2)_n-(C_6H_4)_l-(O)_r-R$,

wherein

m and n, independently, are each 0-20,

k, l, q and r are each, independently, 0 or 1,

R is H, ~~or~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl, OR^1-substituted C_1-C_6-alkyl or CH_2COOR^1,

R^1 is H, ~~or~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl or benzyl; and

X is, in each case, a hydrogen atom [and/or] or a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70; [and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;]

with the provisos that:

at least two X groups represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;

[one of the substituents Z^1 and Z^2 is hydrogen and the other is not hydrogen;]

when n and l are each 0, then k and r are not each simultaneously 1;

$-(O)_r-R$ is not -OH; [and]

Z^1 and Z^2 are not $-C_6H_5$, $-CH_2-C_6H_5$, $-CH_2-C_6H_4-O-CH_2-COOCH_2C_6H_5$ or $-CH_2-C_6H_4-O-(CH_2)_5-COOCH_2C_6H_5$; and

at least one of q and l is 1;

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inorganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide.

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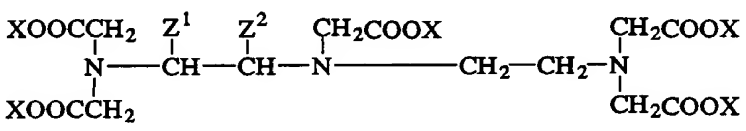
16. **(Amended.)** A method of enhancing an NMR image of the GI tract of a patient comprising administering a compound of the formula



(I),

wherein

one of Z^1 and Z^2 [in each case independently are the residue] is H and the other is

$-(CH_2)_m-(C_6H_4)_l-(O)_k-(CH_2)_n-(C_6H_4)_l-(O)_r-R$,

wherein

m and n independently are 0-20,

k, l, q and r each independently is 0 or 1,

R is hydrogen, optionally OR^1-substituted C_1-C_6-alkyl or CH_2COOR^1,

R^1 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl or benzyl, and

X is, in each case, a hydrogen atom [and/or] or a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70,

with the provisos that:

at least two of the substituents X represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70; [that one of the substituents Z^1 and Z^2 is hydrogen and the other is not hydrogen;] and [that]

when n and l are each 0, then k and r are not each simultaneously 1[,];

$-(O)_r-R$ is not -OH;

Z^1 and Z^2 are not $-C_6H_5$, $-CH_2-C_6H_5$, $-CH_2-C_6H_4-O-CH_2-COOCH_2C_6H_5$ or $-CH_2-C_6H_4-O-(CH_2)_5-COOCH_2C_6H_5$; and

at least one of q and l is 1;

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inorganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide.

Please **add** the following new claims:

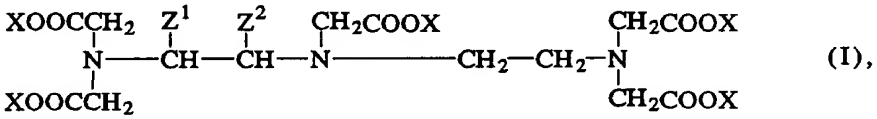
29 -- ~~44~~. A method according to claim ~~11~~, wherein said compound is administered as a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~45~~. A method according to claim ~~16~~, wherein said compound is administered as a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

46. A method according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is H or C_1-C_6-alkyl.

47. A method according to claim 16, wherein R^1 is H or C_1-C_6-alkyl.

48. A method of enhancing NMR imaging of a patient having renal insufficiency comprising administering to a patient a compound of the formula



(I),

wherein

one of Z^1 and Z^2 is H and the other is $-(CH_2)_m-(C_6H_4)_q-(O)_k-(CH_2)_n-(C_6H_4)_l-(O)_r-R$,

wherein

m and n, independently, are each 0-20,

k, l, q and r are each, independently, 0 or 1,

R is H, ~~or~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl, OR^1-substituted C_1-C_6-alkyl or CH_2COOR^1,

R^1 is H, ~~or~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl or benzyl; and

X is, in each case, a hydrogen atom or a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;

with the provisos that:

at least two X groups represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;

when n and l are each 0, then k and r are not each simultaneously 1;

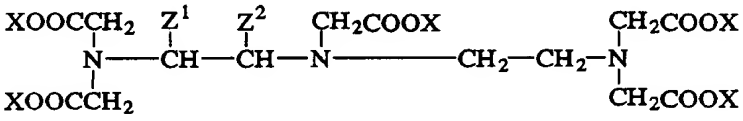
$-(O)_r-R$ is not -OH;

Z^1 and Z^2 are not $-C_6H_5$, $-CH_2-C_6H_5$, $-CH_2-C_6H_4-O-CH_2-COOCH_2C_6H_5$ or $-CH_2-C_6H_4-O-(CH_2)_5-COOCH_2C_6H_5$; and

at least one of q and l is 1;

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inorganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide.

39 ~~49~~. In a method of NMR imaging a patient comprising administering an NMR contrast agent to said patient, the improvement wherein said contrast agent is a compound of the formula



(I),

wherein

one of Z^1 and Z^2 is H and the other is $-(CH_2)_m-(C_6H_4)_q-(O)_k-(CH_2)_n-(C_6H_4)_l-(O)_r-R$,

wherein

m and n, independently, are each 0-20,

k, l, q and r are each, independently, 0 or 1,

R is H, ~~or~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl, OR^1-substituted C_1-C_6-alkyl or CH_2COOR^1,

R^1 is H, ~~or~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl or benzyl; and

X is, in each case, a hydrogen atom or a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;

with the provisos that:

at least two X groups represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;

when n and l are each 0, then k and r are not each simultaneously 1;

$-(O)_r-R$ is not -OH;

Z^1 and Z^2 are not $-C_6H_5$, $-CH_2-C_6H_5$, $-CH_2-C_6H_4-O-CH_2-COOCH_2C_6H_5$ or $-CH_2-C_6H_4-O-(CH_2)_5-COOCH_2C_6H_5$; and

at least one of q and l is 1;

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inorganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide. --

REMARKS

Amendments

Claim 11 is amended to recite that R^1 can be, *inter alia*, benzyl. See, e.g., page 4, lines 13-14. This amendment clarifies the proviso clause as to groups Z^1 and Z^2. Also, the

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